

§ § §

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner and his supervisor, Eduardo Robert, for his helpful comments provided during the November interview. Applicant also thanks the Examiner for his informal comments which he recently provided in response to Applicant's proposed amendment to claim 1, filed in December. Concerning the Examiner's informal comments with regard to "substantially parallel" and "smooth", Applicant has deleted references to these terms in claims 1 to 12, to satisfy the Examiner as well as to harmonize these claims with those granted in Europe (EP 1465 534 B1). Applicant has departed from the granted European claim language by adding the further limitation "matched arc cutting edge forming a cutting plateau", which broadly conforms with Examiner Eduardo Robert's suggestions made during the interview. In addition, Applicant has deleted "adjacent" in the phrase "adjacent rise portions" in order to avoid confusion with "adjacent secondary cutting edges" which are supported by the rise portions. Finally, Applicant has departed from the granted claim 1 in the European case by not writing the claim in Jepson format, substituting "wherein" for the characterizing phrase of the granted European claim.

Support for Applicant's leaving in the term "smooth" in claims 13 and 14 can be found in paragraph [0006] of the application as published, where it is clearly stated that the goal of the invention is to provide a *smooth* hemispherical surface without sweeping.

It is believed that the claims are in condition for allowance. Acknowledgment of this fact is respectfully requested.